

RETOOLED CHIP BILL AGAIN SAILS THROUGH HOUSE

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(WASHINGTON, DC) -- After the House came up just short last week of overturning President Bush's veto of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007, Congressman Carnahan (MO-3) voted today in favor of a new CHIP reauthorization, H.R. 3963.

While several minor changes were made in the CHIP bill which passed the House today with a large, bipartisan vote of 265-142 the foundation of the bill remains largely the same. H.R. 3963, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, again provides 10 million American kids with health insurance.

"There had been a lot of misinformation circulating about the last CHIP bill," Carnahan said. "While H.R. 3963 changes the language of the bill to address these concerns, the legislation does not waver in its support of poor and working class children who need and deserve health care coverage. Like the last version of the bill, nearly 60,000 uninsured children will gain coverage in Missouri."

The revised bill contains a few key points, including further clarification that: the bill is targeted on enrolling low-income children first; the bill does not allow illegal immigrants to get CHIP, the bill is focused on prioritizing children's coverage and phasing out adults, and the bill is designed to minimize children moving from private insurance to CHIP (known as "crowd out").

"The decision of the President to veto the previous CHIP reauthorization was a colossal mistake," Carnahan said. "Continued efforts to block or limit children's health care by the President and his Republican supporters in Congress will not hold up to the growing momentum fueled by the American people, the Governor of nearly every state, advocacy groups, and huge bipartisan majorities in Congress."

This is the third time the House has passed legislation to reauthorize funds for children's health

insurance this year, as the House passed the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act in August, and H.R. 976 in September.